

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Council Approves Two-Year Undergrounding Schedule

\$16.7 Million Allocated in District Three Under First Phase of New Plan

SAN DIEGO--Last week, the City Council unanimously approved a two-year schedule of undergrounding projects which will be paid for in part with funds collected from a utility surcharge approved by the California Public Utilities Commission last December and the City Council last January. Under the new Council plan, the number of lines undergrounded throughout the City will increase from 10 miles to 35 miles annually.

Four separate projects totaling \$16,751,490 in Council District Three are tentatively slated to be included during this first phase of allocations. Two of the projects are to be funded under the continuing Council plan known as "20A," which allocates \$10 million annually for such projects; while the other two are to be funded with moneys from the new surcharge, which adds \$36.5 million annually to the 20A funds.

District Three City Councilmember Toni Atkins, who was the leader on the Council in pushing for the new funding plan, is thrilled to see the program underway: "This program will dramatically speed up and increase the number of lines undergrounded in our urban neighborhoods. It will help make our communities safer from heavy wind storms that may bring lines down, like we experienced in late 2002, and most importantly they'll remove a source of visual blight that continues to haunt our older communities."

The Council action approved the mechanism that will get the projects to the proper staff for design and allocates the funding for the specific projects.

The projects tentatively slated for Council District Three in phase one are:

-- 30th Street/Fern Phase II: Maple Street to A Street (\$7,576,500).

-- Fairmount Avenue: Thorn Street to Myrtle Street (\$183,000).

-- Meade Avenue: New Jersey to I-805 and I-805 to 44th Street (\$7,299,600).

-- Orange Avenue: Fairmount to 54th Street (\$1,692,390).

Timelines for these projects are difficult to predict; however, it is anticipated that some or all could be started by mid 2004, early 2005.

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